

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

BALYKCHY CITY PROFILE

Prepared by the Balykchy City Administration with the support of Urban Institute Bishkek

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Welcome to Balykchy!



The city of Balykchy is an important economic center in Issyk-Kul oblast. It began as a small fishing village called Bachino, which was renamed Rybachje in 1909. It achieved city status in 1954 and developed into a significant transport and industrial center. In ancient times, Balykchy was a transshipment point along "The Great Silk Road".

Our city is often called the "Gateway to Lake Issyk-Kul", an internationally prominent tourist destination.

Balykchy is situated on the northwest shore of Issyk-Kul, 40 km from the international airport "Issyk-Kul".

Balykchy is a terminal station along the Lugovoe-Bishkek-Balykchy railway, connecting Balykchy with the CIS network of railways. This important transportation link has helped define the peculiarity of the city's economy and affects its appearance.

A real, competitive environment for free economic initiative development is being established within the city. Basic infrastructure is developing for a civilized market economy. The city possesses valuable human potential and a cultural-spiritual foundation, giving hope and optimism for its future.

Currently, the city is undertaking measures to develop positive conditions for raising and educating its youth, to eliminate poverty and unemployment, and to further develop the sciences and culture.

We offer you Balykchy's profile and hope that this information will be useful in your investigation of our city as a suitable place for implementing your projects.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sh. Shabolotov'.

Shabolotov Tajimamat Taigaraevich
Mayor of the city of Balykchy

Contact information:

258 Frunzenskaya Street, Balykchy, Issyk-Kul Oblast, Kyrgyz Republic, 722300

Tel.: (996-3944) 2-00-01, 2-00-06

Fax: (996-3944) 2-00-09

E-mail: adm51@mail.bishkek.gov.kg

GENERAL INFORMATION

Balykchy, which contains Orto-Tokoisky Ayl Okmotu, is an oblast-subordinated city. Total area of the city comprises 3357 hectares including territory of housing construction (576.8 hectares); and streets, roads and passages for motor transport (226.5 hectares). Total area of Orto-Tokoisky Ayl Okmotu is 3044 hectares.

GEOGRAPHY. Balykchy is located in the western part of Issyk-Kul oblast at the junction of Issyk-Kul, Chui and Naryn oblasts. It is 350 km from the border of the Chinese People's Republic (Control and Admission Point «Torugart»). The city is located 175 km to the southwest of Bishkek, the capital of KR; 180 km to the north of Naryn, the capital of Naryn oblast; and 220 km to the east of Karakol, which is the oblast center of Issyk-Kul. Orto-Tokoisky Ayl Okmotu is located 18 km to the west of Balakchy at an altitude of 1730 m above sea level.

City extends along 10 km of the shore of Issyk-Kul. The city's width is approximately 3.5 km. The southern part of the city borders the lake (absolute shoreline level is 1607m); the northern border approaches the mountain ridge Kungei-Alatoo and reaches an altitude of 1670m to 1680m. A berth, loading docks, a steam navigation management office, yards and dockyards, a railway station and a marine passenger terminal are located on the banks of Issyk-Kul Lake. Balykchy slopes from the north to south, with a maximum inclination of 5% to 7%. The City plan considers all climate peculiarities, including a persistent west wind Ulan, with its speeds reaching 25 m to 28 m per second. The atmospheric precipitation in the city exceeds 100 mm per year. It falls mainly in the form of rain. Snow is very rare; on average, a blanket of snow covers the city about 7 to 10 days per year with a thickness of 5 cm to 8 cm. The lake does not freeze during the winter.

Balykchy's climate is continental. Soil is stony and humus poor. In combination with the dry climate, it is characterized by very low natural biological productivity.

POPULATION. According to the 2000 census, population, together with Orto-Tokoisky Ayl Okmotu, comprises 42.1 thousand people, 10.1 % of the oblast population. Urban population is 41.5 thousand. The last census data reveals the following ethnic breakdown of the population: Kyrgyz - 84.5%; Russian - 11.0%; Kazakh - 0.9%; Uzbek - 0.8%; Ukrainian - 0.6%, Tatar - 0.5%; and other ethnicities – 1.7 %.

№	Category of population	People (thousands)
1.	Total	42.1
2.	Men	20.5
3.	Women	21.6
4.	Children under age of 16 years old	15.9
5.	Women at the age of 16-55 years old	11.3
6.	Men at the age of 16-60 years old	11.1
7.	Women over 55 years old	2.3
8.	Men over 60 years old	1.5

№	Population by groups of employment	Approximate estimation	Notes
1.	Preschool age children of 1-6 years old	5100	
2.	School children of 6-16 years old	10800	
3.	Students	1146	+300 nonresidents
4.	State officials	337	
5.	Involved in education	1200	
6.	Involved in health	610	
7.	Involved in industry	3800	
8.	Involved in agriculture	300	
9.	Involved in services	5300	
10.	Pensioners	4600	
11.	Adults not registered in other categories (informal sector, housewives and others).	6767	
12.	Unemployed	2140	Including officially unregistered

ECONOMY

INDUSTRY

Balykchy is an industrial and transport link for Issyk-Kul oblast. Processing of agricultural raw materials, industry, production of construction materials and machine-building are priorities of economic development. There are 13 industrial enterprises currently operating in the city, 2 construction organizations, 7 transport units, 318 enterprises of small and medium sized businesses, and 5 communication and utility enterprises.

Improvements in the field of frozen enterprises, an increase of work places, and an improvement of the technical level of enterprises and organizations are visible.

318 small and medium sized enterprises are registered in the city. For 9 months of the current year, small and medium sized businesses produced industrial goods amounting to 21 mln. som, and their output comprises 20.5% of total output.

Total output decline in 2001-2002 is connected with financial difficulties of JSC «Issyk-Kol Dan-Azyk», providing about 40 % of the total output of Balykchy.

Balykchy economics structure (in million som, exchange rate USD 1 = 43 Kyrgyz som as of April 2004)

Index	2000	2001	2002	% in total volume
Total volume of output	318.8	294.8	309.7	100.0
Including:				
- industrial	228.8	192.8	196.1	63.3
- construction	6.9	5.2	7.6	2.5
- transport	36.8	42.8	40.1	12.9
- payable services	46.3	54.0	65.9	21.3

BANKS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The following financial institutions operate in the city of Balykchy:

- Balykchy branch office of the commercial bank «Kyrgyzstan»
- Oblast department of «Kyrgyzstroibank»
- Issyk-Kyl branch office of «Kyrgyzavtobank»
- Balykchy branch office of «Kyrgyzelbank»
- Balykchy branch office of «Kyrgyzenergobank»
- Balykchy branch office of «Kurulushbank»
- Balykchy branch office of SSC (Settlement and Savings Company)

189 business projects were financed. The credit portfolio of these projects is 1427.5 thousand som.

The work of micro credit organizations has increased. Currently, there are 4 micro credit establishments in the city. As of 1 October 2003, micro credits amounting to 3547.4 thousand Kyrgyz som were issued. This is 340.4 thousand more than the same period of time in 2002.

Moreover, micro credits within the framework of the city employment center amounted to 1427.5 thousand Kyrgyz som, issued to support 189 projects of unemployed citizens of the city. City administration also issued micro credits to 72 entrepreneurs, amounting to 360 thousand Kyrgyz som.

EMPLOYMENT

There are 22,497 able-bodied citizens in the city. Currently 832 people are officially registered with the City Department of Employment. The official unemployment rate is 3.7%.

Number of unemployed in 1997-2002

Year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Number of unemployed	970	640	908	720	750	832

TRANSPORT AND ROADS

Railway transport

The railway station «Rybachje» under the State Management Office of the Kyrgyz Railway is located in western part of the city. Gridiron consists of 1 main yard, 3 arrival and departure yards, and 7 lift-on/lift-off platforms.

This is a cul-de-sac station, where train repair and breaking-up take place. Railway communications is a combined railway-road-water operation. A passenger train runs on a daily basis in summer period having 3 to 4 passenger vans.

Existing train crossings of the 1st category are equipped with automatic barrier, electric lightning, automatic light and acoustic alarm.

Motor transport

JSC «Avtovneshttrans» has 220 cars; JSC «Kyrgyztransavto» has 186 cars; JSC «Kyrgyzaltyn» has 193 cars; JSC «Ak-Kula» has 35 cars; Passenger Motor-Transport Depot (PMTD) has 76 buses.

Generally, all motor depots transport different cargos of the Issyk-Kul and Naryn oblasts. Trucks from JSC «Kyrgyztransavto» provide for cargo delivery to the border of Chinese People's Republic.

The passenger bus station, which is state owned, is located in the western part of the city. Its total area is 0.5 hectares. The waiting room has a capacity for 70 people.

Generally, conveyance of passengers takes place at the juncture of Frunze, 40 let Kirgizia and Alieva streets by means of three routes services by Passenger Motor-Transport Depot (JSC PMTD).

The Association of private motor-car enthusiasts has been established and renders transportation services to passengers. Annually, city administration allocates about 150 thousand Kyrgyz som as a subsidy for the transportation of city residents enjoying benefits. The tariffs on inter-city routes are approved by the city Kenesh and the city administration.

City administration allocates funds for mechanical maintenance and salaries out of the city budget. City Kenesh approves tariffs on transportation of passengers.

Water transport

The lake of Issyk-Kul is the only body of water body with a transport profile. Currently, about 40 thousand tons of goods per year are delivered by water transport, which makes up over 30% of all freight service. Mechanization of the Steam Navigation Office allows for operations with bulky loads.

Steam Navigation Office is a joint-stock company, which is subordinate to the city.

City streets and roads

Frunze Street is a part of the Bishkek-Karakol country highway. Balykchy has a rectangular network of streets with the main, asphalted streets being Frunzenskaya, 40 let Kirgizia, Issyk-Kulskaya, Komsomolskaya, Ozeraya and Olimpiskaya. All these streets are of local importance, providing transit means for motorized transportation. Total extension of each street ranges from 7 km to 12 km.

Total extension of the roads used for mass public transportation is 28.2 km.

MARKETS AND POSSIBILITIES OF DISTRIBUTION

Commission on provision of plots of land under Balykchy city administration allots and assigns plots of land for construction of markets. In Balykchy there are two markets selling various consumer goods, agricultural products and foodstuffs.

Ltd «Balykchy-Bazary» is located in the center of the city. Its total area is 1.2 hectares. There are 345 entrepreneurs selling goods in the market. The markets main sales are of agricultural products and foodstuffs.

Trade complex «San-Tash-Temir» (total area is 1.82 hectares) is located to the northeast of «Balykchy-Bazary». There are 363 entrepreneurs engaged in commerce in this market. Its main sales activity is of industrial and construction materials, along with foodstuffs.

Monthly retail trade turnover is equal to 36,498,000 Kyrgyz som in Balykchy. Monthly payable services to the population of Balykchy is 4,652,000 Kyrgyz som.

Balykchy's catering and trade establishments are growing in number and services. As of 1 December 2003, there are 108 shops; 50 different kiosks; 31 cafe-bars; 5 big wholesale storehouses (including a trade base of «Kyrgyzpotrebsouiz»); a Balykchy enterprise on supply of foodstuffs; a tank farm; the JSC «Archa – j»; and JSC «Ayltehnika» supplying agricultural equipment, mechanical and spare parts for the agricultural sector.

MAIN INDICATORS OF CITY BUDGET

Actual budget expenses in 2002 made up 26.1 million Kyrgyz som, including 1.7 million Kyrgyz som for public utilities. Originally in 2002, the approved income plan was 17.9 million Kyrgyz som and the public utilities expenses were 2.2 million Kyrgyz som. During the budget year, funds (by means of recurrent financing) from the state budget were allocated for electric energy, heating, water supply and communication services. 60.8% of actual expenses were spent on education; 4.7% on culture; 3.5% on social security; and 31% for implementing other city functions.